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THE BAPTIST Record

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No. 34

Evangelism, church planting take to streets

SAN DIEGO (BP) — The Reach '98 School of Evangelism and Church Planting moved from conference center meeting rooms to the streets of San Diego on Sept. 10.

More than 177 professions of faith were recorded during seven "experiential events" that provided immediate application for the North American Mission Board-sponsored conference.

Another 726 individuals accepted Christ during an Inner-City Evangelism (ICE) Conference held in conjunction with Reach '98.

The experiential events included a "prayer journey," a door-to-door evangelistic survey, two block parties, a "servanthood evangelism" project, food distribution, an evangelistic dinner for women, and inner-city evangelism.

The subjects were among about 75 workshops offered during the Sept. 8-11 conference on various aspects of church planting and evangelism.

"Hearing something in the classroom is not necessarily learning," said Thomas Hammond, director of direct evangelism for the North American Mission Board (NAMB).

"We found that when people actually experience something is when they really start learning the concept as well as get a heart for it," he pointed out.

One of the newest evangelistic emphases for NAMB is "prayer journeying," an expansion on the concept of prayer-walking.

A prayer journey includes not only teams walking through neighborhoods praying for each house and each family, but other teams praying from cars and still others using street maps to guide their specific prayers.

Churches can then ensure everyone in their chosen area is the subject of prayer, even when walking each street is not possible.

"We've got to broaden our view of prayer walking into prayer journeys, so that every



SHARING THE WORD — R.A. Sharp (second from right) of Chattanooga shares the gospel with a group of children gathered at a San Diego park for a church Labor Day picnic. Sharp, a member of the North American Mission Board's Inner City Evangelism (ICE) Team. The children were among 908 individuals led to Christ by conference participants. (BP photo by James Dotson)

person in a geographic area is intentionally prayed for, and that they will know the truth, and that truth is the person of Jesus Christ," said Thomas Wright, a NAMB prayer evangelism associate.

"Every person in the church can participate in prayer journeys, even if they can't get out and walk a long distance," he added later.

Prayer journeying is part of a comprehensive evangelistic prayer strategy for churches that will be introduced in book to be published by NAMB early next year, Wright said.

The last of the experiential workshops, on inner-city evangelism, was actually a condensed version of the five-day Inner-City Evangelism Conference conducted concurrently at

Highland Park Church in near-by National City.

The full conference also included training in Continuing Witness Training (CWT) and the SAFE (Setting Alcoholics Free Eternally) addiction recovery program.

The first members of NAMB's Inner City Evangelism (ICE) Team, a group of about 15 trained witnesses, hit the streets on Sept. 5, two days before the ICE Conference actually began.

They worked with a number of churches, training witnesses and seeing hundreds led to Christ throughout the week.

For more information, contact NAMB at 4200 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30202-4174. Telephone: (770) 410-6000 or toll-free (800) 634-2462.

Terminations declining

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Fewer Southern Baptist pastors are being involuntarily terminated by their churches, but the reasons for firings have not changed in recent years, according to results of a survey mailed to all Southern Baptist associations in early 1998.

The survey, sponsored by church-minister relations directors for the state Baptist conventions, was coordinated by LeaderCare, a ministry of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. LeaderCare offers a personal development network of resources, including crisis help.

The number of full-time pastors who were fired dropped from 818 in 1996 to 607 in 1997. Instances of bivocational pastors forced to leave their pulpits declined from 441 to 285. The most common issues that led churches to vote their pastors out of their jobs in 1997 have not changed from those cited in 1996.

The top reason for firing pastors is still one of control — who is going to run the church. Following that, in order of frequency, are: poor people skills on the part of the pastor, the church's resistance to change, a pastoral leadership style that is too strong, and a church already in conflict when the pastor arrived.

Other reasons cited by churches include a weak pastoral leadership style, the pastor's administrative incompetence, declines in attendance, pastoral conflict with other staff, sexual misconduct, a tenure perceived as too long, ethical misconduct related to finances or other dishonesty, disagreement over doctrine, and rapid growth.

People interested in resources for conflict resolution may contact Louis Smith, director of Church-Minister Relations at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or (800) 748-1651; or LeaderCare at LifeWay Christian Resources, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, TN 37234-0166.

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Gambling book released

Prof predicts trends

MBC schedule

Letters to the editor

Looking back

10 years ago

William Carey College trustees in a closed meeting vote not to renew school president Ralph Noonkester's contract past his 65th birthday next June. Noonkester has been president of the Baptist-affiliated, Hattiesburg-based college since 1956.

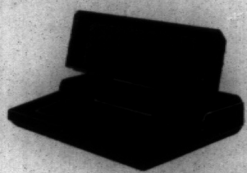
20 years ago

Calvary Church, Pascagoula, reports \$101,512 pledged for Bold Mission Thrust — in addition to the church's largest-ever budget of \$140,000. The special pledge for Bold Missions is part of the Missions Challenge Campaign designed by the state stewardship staff.

50 years ago

Baptist pastors of Rankin County meet Oct. 4 at Richland Church, Richland, to form the Rankin County Pastors' Conference. Featured speaker is D.A. McCall, statistical secretary/treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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People who don't look like us

One of the few not-so-bright spots about living in the buckle of the Bible Belt is that it often feels as if every single person in Mississippi has already had the opportunity to hear the Gospel message — over and over and over.

Our passion for witnessing to the lost can be understandably diminished when we approach people who have been approached so many times that they instantly brush us off with the casual observation, "I've heard all that stuff about a thousand times."

It's enough to make one envious of missionaries in areas of the world where the Gospel is unknown, fresh, and new to people who hang on every word of the story of salvation and our own personal testimonies of how Jesus became real to us.

Comprehensive studies conducted by denominational entities, notably LifeWay Christian Resources (formerly the Sunday School Board) of the Southern Baptist Convention, point to the indisputable fact that "old line" Southern Baptist states like Mississippi are so saturated with Baptists and Baptist churches that a large majority of those congregations have plateaued.

"Plateaued" is a fancy way of saying that we aren't growing. Just sort of holding our own where we are. I'm okay, you're okay. Meeting the budget. Rocking along. Fat and happy in the pews. They know where the church is if they want to come.

That's not good enough for Kingdom work, even if we think everyone in Mississippi actually has had a chance to come to Jesus. The job description we accepted when we accepted Christ is considerably more demanding than that.

Even more to the point, it simply isn't true that everyone in Mississippi has heard the Gospel. That fact was driven home this past Sunday as I watched an entire family being baptized.

One after another, family members trooped into the baptistry to make public their profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The process went on for several long, gratifying minutes.

As I watched that remarkable event, it dawned on me anew that everyone in Mississippi indeed has not had the Gospel personally presented to them, that there are entire families out there who are willing to accept Christ if only we believers take to heart our responsibility to share the Good News with them.

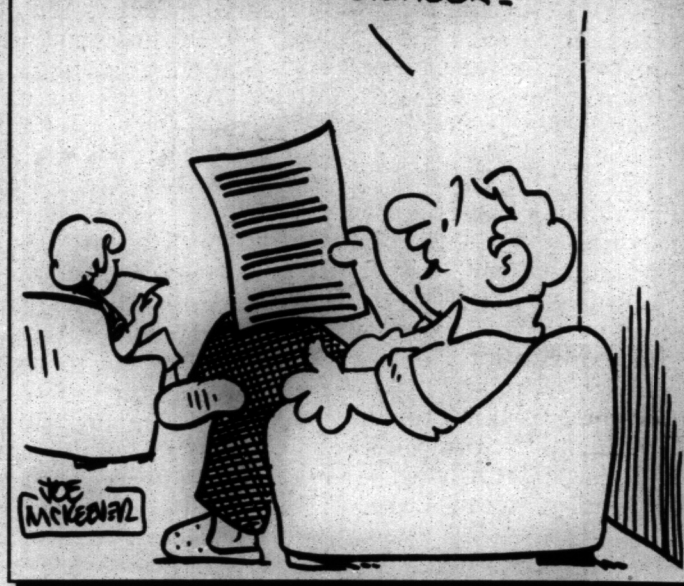
That is our responsibility, one of the most joyous we will ever undertake. Getting turned down hundreds of times on the way to saving one lost soul is no excuse for not trying. Jesus was clear on the point that every individual is important to the Father (Matt. 18:12-14).

What, then, keeps us from seeking those Mississippians who most need to hear the Gospel? It could be that many of those people don't look like us.

Another indisputable fact to arise from LifeWay research is that the fastest-growing segments of the Southern Baptist Convention are ethnic congregations — Hispanic, African-American, Asian, and others.

For Baptists in a state as ethnically- and racially-diverse as Mississippi, there's a message in those numbers. If we are to be fully obedient to the instructions of our Savior (Matt. 28:18-20), we're going to have to break out of our comfortable spiritual zones and do whatever it takes to bring

"THESE YOUNG PEOPLE IN CHARLOTTE ARE DOING A MISSION TRIP TO GEORGIA. AND A GROUP FROM MISSISSIPPI IS GOING TO MARYLAND.... YOU KNOW, WE COULD CUT DOWN ON MILEAGE AND MOTELS IF EVERYONE WITNESSED TO THEIR OWN NEIGHBOR."



Mississippi to Jesus.

Good work by dedicated people is already underway, but much more needs to be done. Much more needs to be done by you and me. If we don't get involved, who will?

In the coming years, as that picture gets clearer and clearer to those who have eyes to see, let our prayer be that no cultural/social barrier — no barrier of any type — will deter us from our goal, our passion, to bring every Mississippian to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Then we will be prepared to take on the world for Jesus, and win.

You do believe that, don't you?

GUEST OPINION:



The future of our nation

By Jeff Holland, pastor
Oakhurst Church, Clarksdale

cumstances, feelings, desires, and environment.

In such a society some claim there are no absolutes. Yet the futility of this position is evident in the fact that even this statement is an absolute.

Character — who we really are — must be grounded in God or else everyone will do what is right in his own eyes and there will be no standard of right and wrong.

Secondly, why is character really that important? One reason is because people want their leaders to possess character.

In the book, *The Leadership Challenge: How to Get Extraordinary Things Done in Organizations*, James Kouzes and Barry Posner have a chapter entitled, "What Followers Expect of Their Leaders."

They surveyed nearly 1,500 managers from around the country in a study sponsored by the American Management Association. They asked the fol-

lowing open-ended question: "What values, personal traits or characteristics do you look for and admire in your superiors?"

The most frequent response was: "Integrity, is truthful, is trustworthy, has character, has convictions."

People willingly follow leaders of character, but lose your personal character and you lose the will of the people to follow.

Samuel Brengle said, "The final estimate of men shows that history cares not an iota for the rank or title a man has borne, or the office he has held, but only the quality of his deeds and the character of his mind and heart."

A second reason character is so important is that the present and future strength of this nation is tied directly to our strength of character.

Lyman Beecher once said: "This nation is, in the providence of God, destined to lead the way in the moral and politi-

cal world...and soon our character and destiny will be stereotyped forever. If America should become corrupt and unprincipled we could be lost in that great ocean of the past where the graves of buried empires heave like passing waves."

"Corrupt and unprincipled..." That doesn't describe the type of nation for which my grandfather fought in World War II. That doesn't describe the type of nation my parents taught me to love, respect, and honor. That's certainly not the type of nation in which I want my children to grow up.

Let me leave you with this thought from Abraham Lincoln:

"Character is like a tree and reputation like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing: I desire so to conduct the affair of this administration that if at the end, when I come to lay down the reins of power, I have lost every other friend on earth, I shall at least have one friend left, and that friend shall be down inside me."

I challenge you today: Make the commitment to be men and women of the highest character. The future of our nation depends on nothing less.

Sources available upon request to author at 828 West Second Street, Clarksdale, MS 38614-3799.

\$750 million goal to mark CP's 75th anniversary

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — To mark the 75th anniversary of the Cooperative Program (CP) — Southern Baptists' key channel of financial support for cooperative ministry — a \$750 million goal is envisioned in state and national CP receipts and in gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for international missions, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American missions and all state missions offerings for the year 2000-2001.

Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee, noted, "To date, representatives from every state convention and every Southern Baptist entity have indicated initial interest in participating in the project."

In his report during the initial session of the Executive

Committee's Sept. 21-22 meeting in Nashville, Tenn., Chapman said, "We are praying for this celebration and promotion to inspire confidence in cooperation among Southern Baptist churches, state conventions and SBC entities while receiving gifts that will help build the mightiest missionary army ever known to mankind."

"We are praying it will be a year of sacrificial giving as well as thanksgiving to God for the great things he has done," Chapman said, calling the \$750-million mark "a reachable goal."

Concerning the current year's CP giving, Chapman reported, "God's people have done it again. For the fifth consecutive year Southern Baptists have given more through the Cooperative Program than any time in history."

SBC Cooperative Program receipts to date have reached \$155,571,000. Already we have exceeded last year's gifts of approximately \$155 million. Our office projects that Cooperative Program receipts will reach no less than \$159 million by the end of this month, which is \$11 million above this year's CP Allocation Budget of \$148 million."

The SBC's CP supports the work of 10 SBC agencies: the International and North American mission boards, encompassing more than 10,000 missionaries; the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission; and six seminaries.

Concerning upcoming SBC budget decisions, Chapman said, "Once again in February we shall make hard decisions with regard to CP budget allocations. Now, not then, is the time to begin praying. Each

entity needs more. As critical as each request is, unless God sends a mighty spiritual awakening, we will be unable to meet every need through the Cooperative Program but what we can do is seek the mind and heart of God, undergird with prayer each of our entities, commend the heads of the entities and their staffs for the vision they have cast and the work they have accomplished."

Chapman urged Baptists to "pray that God will provide for our entities in ways heretofore unimagined in our minds."



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

Record

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CAC set to publish anti-gambling study

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

The Christian Action Commission (CAC) of the Mississippi Baptist Convention has released a new publication for educating church members about gambling, according to Elizabeth K. Holmes, CAC consultant for women's and family issues and chair of the education committee of the Mississippi Baptist Gambling Task Force (MBGTF).

"Tables of Fortune: Lost Hope... Lost Lives, Gambling in America," is the title of the new 52-page book, with an accompanying 48-page leader's guide, that was introduced at a series of gambling conferences around the state Sept. 21-24.

The book was co-written by Holmes, CAC executive director Paul G. Jones II, Larry Garner of Metro Association, and William H. Perkins Jr., editor of The Baptist Record. It was produced by a special allocation from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

"Tables of Fortune" is the direct result of the work of MBGTF.

"During the period in the 1980s when there was a push for a state lottery, we came to realize that the people in our churches were woefully ignorant about gambling and had no convictions about the moral problem," Holmes said.

As a result, the MBGTF was formed and gathered in September 1996 for a weekend retreat, Holmes indicated.

The MBGTF identified four areas of concern. First was ministry, both to those broken and devastated by gambling, and those who work in the casino industry. Second, if ministry was to be conducted, there was a need for training at the church and associational level.

Third was confrontation. "We will never give up (on the fact) that gambling is a moral and social problem. We will not stop fighting the expansion of (gambling)," Holmes said.

The fourth area of concern was education. The only way to confront the ignorance and lack of conviction on the part of people is to educate them, Holmes indicated.

According to Jones, the book and leader's guide, are the only materials of its kind available to the local church. With it, church leadership and membership can begin to be educated about the true nature of gambling, Jones indicated.

Copies of the book are being mailed to every Mississippi Baptist church, Jones said. Additional copies can be ordered for \$3 each — well below what a book this size would cost through normal channels, he said.

"We want to put (this book) in the home of every family in Mississippi," Jones said.

"We have to dream big. We cannot have successful opposition to gambling without conviction on the part of Mississippi Baptist people," he added.

Garner said the key to gaining that conviction is education. He pointed out that the material is written on two levels: the cognitive level, presenting the reader with facts about gambling, and on the attitudinal level, affecting the person's attitude toward gambling.

The book consists of four chapters. The first chapter gives the history of gambling. "It tells how we got into the situation in which we are," Garner said.

The second chapter presents biblical principles which point against gambling. "Jesus valued people above things, which is in contrast to the gambling predators who in their greed prey upon people," Garner said.

The third chapter addresses the human toll of gambling. "The true destructive nature of gambling is revealed in a true-life story of how gambling ruined one Mississippi Southern Baptist woman," Garner said.

The final chapter is a call to action. "Do we allow the gambling tree to keep growing in Mississippi?" Garner asked.

The leader's guide provides suggestions for teaching each chapter. It also includes a complete set of overhead cell masters and handout masters which can be reproduced, according to Garner.

Future plans include children and youth editions, plus an expanded version of the adult book, Jones said.

For more information or to order copies contact CAC at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



Details released for '98 MBC

Registration

Registration for the 1998 Mississippi Baptist Convention at First Church, Jackson, will be on the second floor above the State Street entrance, just outside the Sanctuary. The registration area can be directly accessed from the Skywalk over State Street. For safety reasons, crossing State Street below the Skywalk is strongly discouraged. Pedestrians should cross State Street at the traffic signal located at the intersection of State and Mississippi Streets.

Volunteers from First Church, Jackson, will begin registering messengers at noon on Monday, Oct. 26, and at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 27. Registration will close for the day on both Oct. 26-27 at the beginning of the night sessions. On Oct. 28, registration will be open from 8-10 a.m.

Telephone access/lost and found

A telephone for outgoing calls will be available on the second floor across from the registration area. Long distance calls require a credit card. Messages may be left for convention attendees by calling (601) 949-1924 during convention sessions. A lost and found booth will also be staffed in this area.

Preschool care

Preschool-age child care will be available during the 1998 Mississippi Baptist Convention by completing the following process:

1. Pre-registration is required by deadline of Oct. 19. To pre-register, contact the First Church, Jackson, preschool ministry during regular business hours at (601) 949-1904.
2. Upon arriving, sign in children and pick up security cards at the preschool ministry entrance on ground level off State Street. The preschool entrance is accessed by using the one way drive-through at the intersection of State and College Streets.
3. Label all belongings. For infants, leave written feeding schedule.
4. Children must arrive no earlier than 20 minutes before each session begins and must be picked up no later than 20 minutes after the close of each session. Children may remain in the preschool area during the convention lunch break on Oct. 27 if parents provide a snack lunch.

Note: A child will be released only to the adult in possession of the security card assigned to that particular child.

Parking

Since parking is extremely limited around First Church, Jackson, messengers and guests of the 1998 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention are encouraged to park at the Mississippi State Fairgrounds. Exit Interstate 55 at High Street, turn left on Jefferson Street, and enter the fairgrounds at the Amie Street entrance. Park beside the "Super Slide" amusement ride.

Shuttle vans will be available to and from First Church, beginning with the first sessions on Monday, Oct. 26 and ending with the final session on Wednesday, Oct. 28.

Those attending the 1998 Mississippi Baptist Convention are cautioned against over-parking on meters and other illegal parking. Improperly parked cars may be towed in severe cases.

Prof predicts Christian education trends

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

(Final in a series)

Michael Johnson, professor in the Department of Christian Studies and Philosophy at Mississippi College in Clinton, spent his summer sabbatical traveling over 10,000 miles visiting 43 churches noted for their religious education programs.

These 43 churches were from a list of 73 recommended by leaders and experts in the field of Christian education. From 24 states and the District of Columbia, the churches cut across denomination lines and traditions (See data box below.)

In an address to the Metro Association religious educators' monthly luncheon in September, Johnson shared some preliminary insights from his study. There were several negative trends Johnson noted from his 43 visits.

Of the 22 Baptist churches he contacted, Johnson said half are in the process of taking, or have already taken, the word "Baptist" out of their name.

"They claim to be maintaining their Baptist identity, but only in that they continue to contribute to the Cooperative Program," he said. Johnson produced membership manuals and new member training books from several of the churches, and observed that the emphasis is on beliefs about God, Christ, and the Bible.

"They make virtually no mention of Baptist history, heritage, or Baptist principles," he said. Johnson observed that denominational publishing houses are increasingly out of touch with these cutting edge churches. "We have tried programming in Christian education, but we are still failing to realize that Christian education is a process," he said. As a result, many of the churches Johnson surveyed are writing their own Sunday School materials — especially in the preschool and children areas.

One church writes its own adult materials and e-mails lesson plans to Sunday School teachers each week.

Johnson also noted a number of the churches opted for religious education leadership from its own membership rather than professionally-trained leaders from denominational schools and seminaries.

"I don't know if this is a trend or not," he warned.

This presents a mixed bag, Johnson indicated. On the positive side, a staff member who comes from the church membership is a known commodity, already trusted.

"On the bad side is what it says to the professional Christian education ministry and to our schools of higher education," Johnson pointed out.

He noted that if a church is going to embark on writing its own educational materials, it needs ministers trained in both theology and educational psychology.

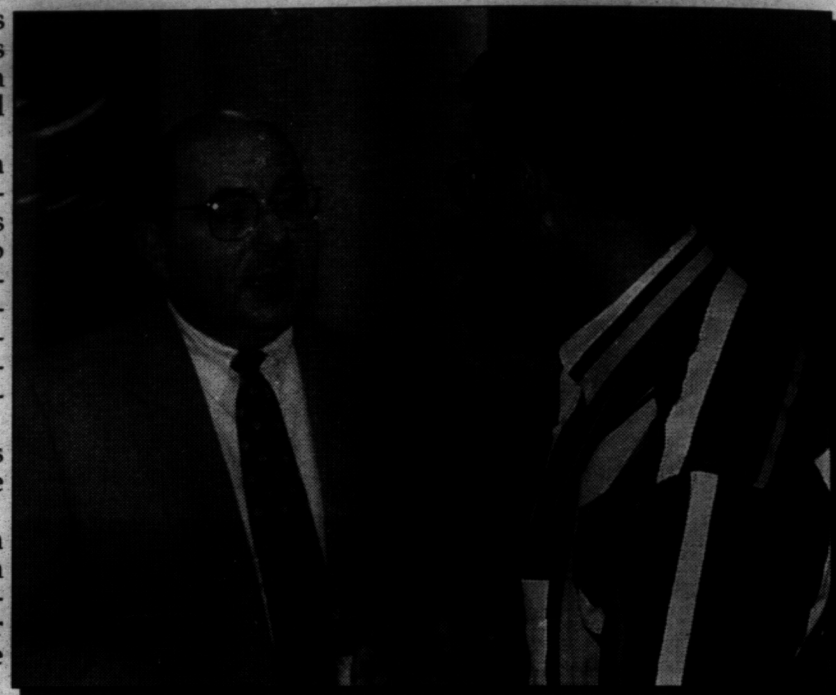
Johnson said he visited a few churches that had grasped the concept of Christian education as a process, including several have developed multi-stepped programs where members' progress in Christian development toward discipleship is carefully tracked.

Johnson said while church growth is seen by most as the only criteria for educational success, one church in suburban Indianapolis decided to grow other churches instead of building its own kingdom.

"Early on they decided that 1800 members was as big as they wanted to be. Five times they have brought in a new staff member, whose job was, in two years, to take 200 to 250 people and go start a new church. They have started five new churches," he said.

In addition, that church's Christian education program is based on material jointly produced with a nearby theological seminary, Johnson said.

"It is, in essence, seminary training in the



DISCUSSING TRENDS — Michael Johnson (left), Christians Studies and Philosophy professor at Mississippi College, talks with A. V. Windham (right) of Southside Church, at the Metro Association religious educators luncheon held at First Church, Clinton. (Photo by Carl M. White)

church. This is a radically different kind of model for Christian education than most," he explained.

According to Johnson, several of the churches place strong emphasis on community ministry, producing ministry books listing hundreds of ministry and mission opportunities in the local area for church members to choose from.

Johnson said he found one encouraging feature in these churches on the cutting edge of Christian education: "Everyone on the staff was involved, not just the religious education person. Religious education is the responsibility of the entire church."

"Churches all over are struggling with the basic question that sent me on my quest — What is Christian education going to look like in the future?"

Johnson challenged churches to "roll up their sleeves and seek ways to develop people for Christ."

Johnson is not yet sure of the study's final outcome. "Everybody dreams about the great book they are going to write," he said.

For more information, Johnson can be contacted at Mississippi College Department of Christian Studies and Philosophy, P. O. Box 4012, Clinton, MS 39058. Telephone (601) 925-3296.

CHURCH AFFILIATION

Baptist	22
Christian Church	1
Presbyterian	3
Methodist	9
Episcopal	1
Church of God	1
non-denominational	6

CHURCH SIZE

1000 members or less	24%
1000 to 3000 members	36%
3000 to 4500 members	18%
4500 members or more	27%

NOBTS taps Jerry Pounds

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Jerry Wayne Pounds Sr. has been named assistant to the president at New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS).

Pounds, a New Orleans native, comes to his new position after chairing the seminary's division of Christian education ministries since August 1997.

In June 1997 seminary trustees re-elected him associate professor of Christian education, having previously been a faculty member from 1988-93 and director of the seminary's office of continuing education from 1990-93.

Pounds served as pastor of Old Silver Creek Church in Silver Creek (Miss.) from 1978-79, and as youth minister from 1980-82 at Broadmoor Church in Jackson.

Mississippi CBF fall meeting slated for Oct. 9-10

The fall meeting of the Miss. Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) is scheduled for Oct. 9-10, at Calvary Church, Jackson, according to Bradley Pope, Miss. CBF coordinator.

Under the theme of "To the World — With Love," the two-day meeting will feature Ralph and Tammy Stocks, CBF missionaries to the Gypsy people in Hungary, along with Jon Blouin and the United Voices of Praise chorus.

Blouin, director of the 75-voice volunteer chorus, is part-time minister of music at First Church, Lambert.



R. Stocks

The United Voices of Praise is an ethnically- and religiously-diverse choir sponsored by the Northwest Delta Arts Council.

Break-out sessions during the meeting will feature:

● Mark McComb, instructor at Mississippi College (MC). He will speak on spirituality in the workplace.

● Lela Hendrix, staff development coordinator for the University of Mississippi Hospital in Jackson. She will speak on building a marriage of equals.

● Ralph and Tammy Stocks.



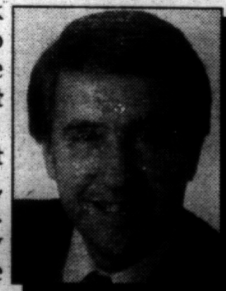
T. Stocks

They will speak on missions at home and abroad.

● Roger Greene, MC professor of Bible. He will speak on how to take the Bible seriously, but not literally.

● Robert Anderson, Assistant U. S. Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi. He will speak on separation of church and state.

● Laurie Lawson, executive director of Clinton Community Christian Corporation. She will speak on church and families in community service.



Blouin

● Jane Allison of Hattiesburg, a national CBF Coordinating Council member. She will speak on CBF materials and overview.

● Bradley Pope, Miss. CBF coordinator. He will speak on the subject of what is the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship? Registration opens at 5 p.m. on Oct. 9. The first session starts at 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 10 activities begin with registration at 9 a.m., followed by sessions running from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The Friday evening meal and lunch on Saturday are both \$5 per person. Child care is available by reservation.

For more information and to make childcare reservations, contact the Miss. CBF office at (601) 355-7824.

1998 Mississippi Baptist Convention schedule

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27 — FIRST SESSION (A.M.)

8:30 Prelude Organist/Pianist, FBC, Jackson
 8:35 Sounding of the Gavel Dean Register
 8:40 Choral Praise Temple, Hattiesburg
 8:50 *Congregational Praise Paul Koonce
 *Hear the Word of the Lord Gary Bowlin
Psalm 66:1-9
 *Prayer
 9:00 Organization of the Convention
 Recognition and Seating of Messengers Dean Register
 Recognition of Special Guests & Correspondence Dean Register
 Report of Committee on Order of Business Forrest Sheffield
 Tellers and Credentials Committees Dean Register
 Welcome FBC, Jackson
 9:10 Bible Treasure: Grow in Spiritual Power Bill Tolar
 "By Being a Christocentric Christian" — Philippians 1:21
 9:35 Report of Committee on Committees Ken Anderson
 9:40 Presentation of Resolutions
 9:50 *Congregational Praise Paul Koonce
 9:55 Testimony in Song Boyd Tweedy
 10:00 Election of President Kenneth Rhodes
 10:20 Choral Praise Celebration Choir & Orchestra
 Temple, Hattiesburg
 10:25 President's Address Dean Register
 10:55 Second Ballot for President (if needed)
 11:00 Convention Board Report Kermit McGregor
 11:10 *Congregational & Choral Praise Celebration Choir
 Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg
 11:15 Message: "Unlimited Possibilities" Jack Graham
 Ephesians 3:20-21
 11:40 *Benediction Paul Wilson
**Congregation will please stand*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27 — SECOND SESSION (P.M.)

1:30 Prelude Sanctuary Choir, Colonial Heights, Jackson
 1:40 Sounding of the Gavel Kenneth Rhodes
 *Congregational Praise Larry Kulcke
 *Hear the Word of the Lord
Psalm 89:1-9
 *Prayer
 1:50 Testimony in Song Myrna Loy Hedgepeth
 1:55 Bible Treasure: Grow in Spiritual Power Bill Tolar
 "By Powerfully Practicing Prayer" — Matt. 7:7-11
 2:20 Christian Action Commission Report Paul Jones
 2:30 Business Session Dean Register
 Presentation of 1999 Budget Bobby Kirk
 Election of Convention Officers
 Presentation of Resolutions
 Miscellaneous Business
 3:00 *Congregational Praise Larry Kulcke
 3:05 Baptist Children's Village Report Ronny Robinson
 3:15 Business Session Dean Register
 Election of Convention Officers
 Report of Constitution and Bylaws Committee
 Miscellaneous Business
 3:50 *Congregational Praise Larry Kulcke
 3:55 Report of Board of Min. Ed. Joseph T. Campbell
 4:00 Choral Praise Sanctuary Choir,
 Colonial Heights, Jackson
 4:15 Convention Sermon Richard Powell
 4:45 *Benediction Arthur Siggers
**Congregation will please stand*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27 — THIRD SESSION (P.M.)

6:30 Prelude Mississippi Singing Churchmen
 6:35 Sounding of the Gavel Dean Register
 6:40 Choral Praise Mississippi Singing Churchmen
 7:00 *Congregational Praise Graham Smith
 *Hear the Word of the Lord Major McDaniel
Psalm 92:1-9
 *Prayer
 7:10 Testimony in Song Ronnie Cottingham
 7:15 Final Presentation of Resolutions
 7:20 Recognition of Guests Dean Register
 Recognition of Missionaries & New Workers
 7:35 Partnership Missions Bill Hardy
 7:50 *Congregational Praise Graham Smith
 7:55 Choral Praise Mississippi Singing Churchmen
 Sanctuary Choir & Orchestra, Broadmoor, Jackson
 8:15 Mississippi Baptist Convention Emphasis Jim Futral
 9:00 *Benediction Eugene Dobbs
**Congregation will please stand*

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28 — FOURTH SESSION (A.M.)

8:30 Prelude William Carey College Chorale
 8:35 Sounding of the Gavel Paul Blanchard
 8:40 Choral Praise William Carey College Chorale
 8:50 *Congregational Praise Milfred Valentine
 *Hear the Word of the Lord Chester Estes, Jr.
Psalm 103: 1-8
 *Prayer
 9:00 Bible Treasure: Grow in Spiritual Power Bill Tolar
 "By Serving with a Servant Spirit" — Matt. 20:25-28
 9:25 Memorial Service Louis Smith
 9:35 Report of Christian Education Rex Yancey
 9:40 Choral Praise William Carey College Chorale
 9:45 Introduction of College Presidents Dean Register
 Report from William Carey College Larry Kennedy
 9:50 Business Session Dean Register
 Adoption of 1999 Budget Bobby Kirk
 Report of Committee on Nominations David Raddin
 Time, Place, and Preacher Committee Report Rex Yancey
 Resolutions Committee Report Alan Woodward
 Miscellaneous Business
 10:30 *Congregational Praise Milfred Valentine
 10:35 Testimony in Song Kevin Williams
 10:40 Choral Praise William Carey College Choral
 10:55 Message David Jeremiah
 "Winning the Power Struggle in the Church" — Acts 12:1-24
 11:25 *Benediction Clark Hensley
**Congregation will please stand*

Source: MBCB Office of Communication

MBC auxiliary meetings

Mississippi Baptist Religious Education Association fall luncheon: Monday, Oct. 26; 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.; Colonial Heights Church, Jackson. Tickets are \$10. For reservations contact David Rogers, Main Street Church, 1101 N. Main St., Hattiesburg, MS 39401. Telephone: (601) 544-5444.

Southwestern Seminary national alumni association: Tuesday, Oct. 27; 12 noon; Calvary Church, Jackson. Program includes Bill Tolar; Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient: Mary Frank Kirkpatrick, former missionary to Nigeria. Luncheon tickets are \$10 and may be purchased from Truman Scarborough, director of missions, North Central Association, 1045 Fairfield, Grenada, MS 38901.

Mid-America Seminary alumni association: Tuesday, Oct. 27; 11:45 a.m.; Ramada Coliseum, 400 Greymont Ave., Jackson. Michael Spradlin, president of Mid-America Seminary will be the guest speaker. The cost of the luncheon is \$12. For more information contact chapter president, J.B. Hayes Jr., at (601) 345-8597 or jbhays@clarksdale.com

Southern Seminary alumni and friends fellowship luncheon: Tuesday, Oct. 27; noon; Baptist Building, Skyroom. Tickets are \$10 at the door. If possible, please call in number attending to J. C. Prather (601) 728-6132.

Mississippi College Christian Service Alumni: Tuesday, Oct. 28; 7:30 a.m.; First Church, Jackson, Fellowship Hall East.

Covenant Ministerial Fellowship breakfast: Wednesday, Oct. 28; 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.; Frank's Restaurant, 219 N. President Street. Bobby Douglas. Tickets are \$7. For reservations call (601) 992-3768.

WMU leader suffers stroke

BIRMINGHAM, AL. (Special) — Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) auxiliary, is recuperating in a Birmingham hospital after suffering a mild stroke on Sept. 26. A battery of tests was being conducted at publication deadline, and the results were not yet available.

Doctors have requested no visits or telephone calls while O'Brien is hospitalized. Correspondence may be sent to O'Brien at her office address: P.O. Box 830010, Birmingham, AL 35283-0010.

'Fast food' for evacuees



Members of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit began cooking meals at Midway Church, Jackson, on the morning of Sept. 28 for Hurricane Georges evacuees pouring into the Mississippi Coliseum and Trade Mart in Jackson. Among the unit members activated were (from right) Bobby Kennedy, member of Pearl Valley Church in Wesson; John Richardson, member of Ogden Church, Benton; and Dixie Kennedy, member of Pearl Valley Church, Wesson. More than 1,500 evacuees were in the Jackson area by the time the storm made landfall along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

The disaster relief unit redeployed to the coast before dawn on Sept. 29. Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) volunteers were also reported to be en route to the hurricane area. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Baptist College news

The Office of Continuing Education at Mississippi College is offering a course to assist individuals who are preparing to take the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT). The one-day course will be held Oct. 10 and the deadline to register is Oct. 5. For additional information call (601) 925-3264.



New Prospect Church, Brookhaven, recently held its annual Team Kids Awards Service. Medals for outstanding work were presented to (pictured) Lindsay Franklin, Matthew Smith, Daniel Allen, Tyler Alexander, Hunter McDowell, Hallie Ward, Stephanie Knippers, Emily McDowell, Garrett Smith, Elaina Jo Smith, Brandon Knippers, Kelli Herrington, and Mark Case (not pictured). Also, receiving medals were Pre School Team Kid, front row, Haleigh Brister, Shelby Alexander, Jessica Franklin, Haley Ainsworth, Karlee Herrington, and Dustin Greer. Team Kid leaders are Pam Herrington, Debbie Alexander, Edna Haley, Donna Welch, Heather Reynaud, and Bonnie Reynaud. Willie T. Welch is pastor.

Special encore presentation of "GOD for US" will be presented by the worship ministry of Broadmoor Church on Oct. 25 at 6 p.m. To request free tickets, call the music office at (601) 362-0305.

A Christian alternative to Halloween and the notorious Haunted House "Judgement House" will be held at Wellman Church, Bogue Chitto, from 5-10 p.m. on Oct. 23-24, 30-31. For reservation call (601) 833-4144.

Northwest Community College BSU, Senatobia, will have homecoming/open house immediately following the football game, approximately 4:30-6 p.m., on Oct. 10. For more information, call (601) 562-6168.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



Ministries were held this summer at 16 locations in Jackson County. There were 14 churches, four of Jackson County, doing missions at 16 locations. At the final tally there were 285 workers, 517 children enrolled, 15 professions of faith, four surrendered to some phase of Christian ministry. Mississippi, Texas, Alabama, and Louisiana were represented by the group who came to do ministry. They did Backyard Bible Clubs, taught VBS, cleaned ministry facilities, made sandwiches, did repairs, yard work, painted, puppets, visited ships, served at soup kitchen, met with seamen from Poland, Greece, Philippines, Guatemala, and Korea. Mississippi was well represented this summer with five churches, Shady Grove, Mt. Nebo, First Church, Moss; Union, Seminary; and Bay Springs, from Jasper County led by David Abbott, director of missions. Pictured in front of the Jackson County Association Ministries Building are the workers from Jasper County Mission Team. For more information contact Tom Miller, Jackson County Baptist Association, P. O. Box 1726, Pascagoula MS 39568 or call (228) 769-7101.

Griffith Memorial Church, Jackson, will dedicate its new three manual, MDS 51 Allen organ on Oct. 4, during the 10:30 a.m. service and 3:30 p.m. Dedication Recital. Recitalist will be Jeff R. McLelland, associate professor of music at

Mississippi College and director of music at First Trinity Presbyterian Church of Laurel. A reception honoring McLelland will follow the recital in the North Foyer of the church. For more information, call the church office at 372-7812.

Faith Church, Hickory Flat, will hold special dedication services for its new building on Oct. 4, beginning at 10:30 a.m. The building consists of a sanctuary with a seating capacity of approximately 250, four Sunday School rooms, rest rooms, nursery, and sound room. A 20 foot hallway connects the new building with the old structure which will be used as a fellowship hall and educational space for the children and youth departments. Faith Church was constituted on April 1, 1984, but the first meeting was held on the first Sunday in October, 1983, so the church will celebrate its 15th anniversary on dedication day. Bill Dowdy is pastor.

Baptist Memorial Health Care (BMHC) Foundation on Sept. 9 presented the Medical Education Research Institute (MERI) with a check for \$3.2 million. With this donation, BMHC became a Founding Member of MERI, along with Semmes-Murphy Center and Methodist Healthcare, and gained representation on the MERI Board of Directors. The mission of MERI is to foster research in all areas of medicine and to promote the general health and welfare of the community and nation by providing quality, comprehensive medical education programs for physicians and other medical professionals.

Harvest Day Weekend will be held at Cherry Creek Church, Pontotoc Association, on Oct. 10 and 11. Activities on Friday will include a fish fry at 5 p.m., and entertainment from 6-8 p.m. featuring Crossway, Jill Montgomery, and Darla Robinson. Sunday services will start at 10 a.m. with Sunday School, and Harvest Day services will be held at 11 a.m. with Ricky and Dena Pike as special guests. Don Wilson is pastor.

Tylertown Church, Tylertown, held dedication services on Sept. 20 for an Allen MDS-51-S organ. Kathy Vail of William Carey College was guest organist. A reception was held in the Family Life Center. David L. Sellers is pastor.

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April 12-15

April 26-29

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1999 Senior Adult CELEBRATIONS!

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

October 1, 1998

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.



"Daughters of the Crown" Queens' Court Weekend

**Camp Garaywa
November 13-14**

Registration Form

\$25 per person, Registration Deadline, November 6

Contact Person _____ Association _____

Church _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Daytime Phone _____

Amount Enclosed: \$25 x # (of persons) _____ = \$ _____ (total)

Make checks payable to MBCB (Mississippi Baptist Convention Board)

Send to: WMU - Queens' Court, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

For more info: call WMU office

1-800-748-1651

THE SUIT PROJECT

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For over 34 years Baptists in Mississippi have enjoyed sending new suits to the pastors in new work areas. This is our way of letting the pastors in these areas of Southern Baptist life know that we care about and support them in their work.

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Brotherhood Department

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Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

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Christmas"

to pastors in the

Colorado,

Wyoming,

Montana & Iowa

Conventions

Cost:

\$130 per suit

Lay Missions Conference

First Baptist Church, Jackson, October 26, 1998

Interest

Conferences - 8 pm

- Agricultural Missions
- Construction Projects
- Educational Missions
- Partnership Missions
- Sports Evangelism
- Volunteers in Missions

Banquet 5 pm

- Dinner
- Music
- Volunteer Recognitions
- Testimonies
- Message



George Komendant
Executive Director
Ukraine Baptist Union

*"Lord, I Will Serve
You In My
Marketplace"*

For more info call the
MBCB Brotherhood
Department
1-800-748-1651



Jeff Brantley
Professional Baseball
Pitcher, St. Louis Cardinals

1999 Mississippi Baptist
All-State Youth Choir Auditions

CHORAL

October:	22nd (Columbus)	24th (Tupelo)
	26th (Natchez)	31st (Jackson)
November:	2nd (Clarksdale)	7th (Ocean Springs)
	14th (Summit)	16th (Meridian)

CHORAL AND ORCHESTRAL

November:	19th (Hattiesburg)	20th (Jackson)	21st (Oxford)
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Talk to your church minister of music or
Call MBCB Music Dept. for more info: 1-800-748-1651

Women on Mission Celebration

• **Worship and Inspiration • Small Group Learning Experiences**
 Cost: \$30 lodging and three meals, \$19 meals only, \$7 no meals or lodging

October 16-17, 1998
Camp Lake Stephens
Oxford

Missionary Speaker
Jan Harper

IMB Rep. to Northern Africa

Music

John and Sarah Perkins
Northwest Baptist Association

Meet and hear KAY CASSIBRY, our new executive director of Mississippi WMU.

REGISTRATION FORM

Church/Assn. _____ Phone _____

Contact Person _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Number of Women _____ x cost per person _____ =

Total enclosed: _____

*Bring your own bed sheets for a single bed,
 pillow, towel, toilet articles, etc.*

Make checks payable to:

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Mail to: MBCB

WMU Celebration

P.O. Box 530

Jackson, MS 39205



GA Mother/Daughter Overnight (Grades 1-6)

Camp Garaywa, October 23-24

Begins Friday at 5 p.m. and ends 12:30 p.m. Saturday

Registration Deadline: October 15

Mother's Name _____ Daughter's Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____ In case of emergency contact/phone # _____ / _____

Church Name _____ Association _____

Amount Enclosed: \$23 x # (of persons) _____ = \$ _____ (total)

Make checks payable to MBCB (Mississippi Baptist Convention Board)

Send to: WMU - GA Mother/Daughter Overnight, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MINISTERS' WIVES

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSON • MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1998 • 1:00-4:30 P.M.

• Inspiration, Fellowship, Personal Growth, Information, and Support for the Minister's Wife!

• There is no cost to you for this conference.

• Child care will be provided for preschoolers on a limited basis. Please use the registration form to schedule child care by October 19.



featuring



Melinda Yessick
 Nashville - First Place leader,
 teacher, conference leader,
 Lifeway Christian Resources

Tommy Yessick
 Nashville - Wellness Leader
 Care consultant, Lifeway
 Christian Resources

Registration Form

Complete the registration form and return to Julius C. Thompson, Church Administration-
 Pastoral Ministries Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Name _____ Home Phone No. _____

Church _____ Association _____

Home Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Husband's Position _____

Names and birth dates of preschool children you will bring _____



Baptist Nursing Fellowship Fall Retreat

October 9-10, 1998
Camp Garaywa, Clinton
Friday, 4:30 - Saturday Noon

Cost Options

- \$20 • Bring linens and towels, or
- \$23 • for limited spaces available in the guest (linens provided), or
- \$5 • per meal if not staying overnight

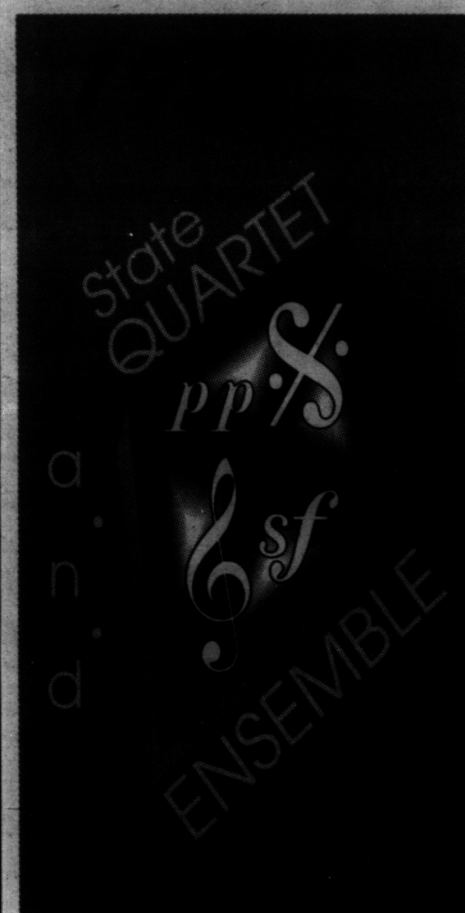


Featured Speaker
Gloria Thurman
Missionary to Bangladesh

BNF Fall Retreat Registration Form (Deadline is October 5)

Church _____ Association _____
Person sending registration _____ Daytime Ph. # _____
Address _____
Enclosed is: \$ _____ for _____ person(s) at \$20 each
\$ _____ for _____ person(s) at \$23 each
\$ _____ for _____ person(s) at \$5 each (meals only)

Make checks payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and mail to:
WMU/BNF, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205



October 13
FBC, Pearl
FBC, Greenwood

October 15
Temple BC,
Hattiesburg

October 20
Calvary BC, Tupelo

7 p.m.

For more information,
contact the Church
Music Dept., MCB
1-601-968-3800 or
1-800-748-1651

Guidelines

1. Each participating quartet and/or ensemble must be sponsored by a local Southern Baptist Church. The members of the participating group/s must be active in the church's music ministry.
2. No church may sponsor more than one quartet with the same voicing and no more than two groups from the same church.
3. No quartet shall contain more than one active church staff member.
4. Each quartet and ensemble will be allowed six minutes.
5. Accompaniment for each quartet or ensemble will be limited to piano and/or organ. You will need to provide your own accompanist if possible! If you cannot, please contact the Church Music Department.
6. Quartets which sing regularly for fees are considered to be professional quartets for this event and are, therefore, ineligible to participate.
7. Two copies of each selection must be provided for the adjudicators. Photocopies will not be accepted unless permission from the publisher has been granted.
8. Only college students and adults are eligible to participate.
9. A quartet may consist of four members of the following: SATB, TTBB, SSAA, or any other combination of four individuals.
10. An ensemble may consist of any combination of voices of not less than five (5) or more than sixteen (16) individuals.

GA/Acteens Campus Day - Blue Mountain College

Date Changed from
November 14th to
December 5th

Cost \$7.50 per person (includes
basketball game, meal, program
& limited insurance)

- Missionaries
- Basketball
- Testimonies
- Cheerleaders
- Music

Registration Form for GA/Acteens Campus Day Blue Mountain College, December 5th

Name _____ Daytime Ph. Number _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church Name _____ Association _____

Amount Enclosed: \$7.50 x # (of persons) _____ = \$ _____ (total)

Make checks payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Send to: WMU, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

For more details call the WMU office at 1-800-748-1651

Pray this day for...

October 2-15, 1998

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

"Prayer is like a spider web spread over the whole world, anywhere you touch it it vibrates."

Gloria and Tom Thurman, missionaries to Bangladesh

Soul Winning Commitment Day (Evangelism and S.S. Emphasis). Pray that every Christian will be alert to give a positive witness to each person with whom he/she may come in contact.

4

World Hunger Day (Christian Action Commission Emphasis). The world does not believe that we really care... when the Christians of the world's richest nation cannot even give more than fifty cents per person each year to feed a hungry world. Pray that people will give sacrificially to the World Hunger Offering.

For Church Related Vocations Banquet; Mississippi College; sponsored by Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries.

5

Keep on praying for the people of Indonesia to find the redemption and hope that Jesus gives, as they fight the hopelessness in their life situations.

12

Join missionaries Vic and Sharon Johnston in giving thanks to God for the positive results of their first-ever baseball clinic, which was led by volunteers. Over 400 children and youth in Teresina, Brazil, participated; 50 made decisions to accept Christ.

6

International Service Corps worker Bob Farmer is using his running skills as a means of evangelism in the Philippines. Pray for the salvation of 20 young men currently training in Bob's running club.

13

Phil Monterroza, Bloomington, IL, is a Messenger of the Word working with Tri Valley Baptist Church. The church sponsors three different language ministries - African-American, Hispanic, and Anglo. Pray for 14 families that have received Jesus Christ since January.

7

Although Uruguay is a relatively small country, distances can be a problem. Please pray for safety for missionaries Don and Mary Ann Davis as they travel about 250 miles each weekend from the city where they live to La Charquada. Also, ask God to provide a lay pastor to assist them.

14

Please continue praying for our personnel in Albania as they try to carry on their ministries amidst the current political tensions. Bill and Debbie McIntyre serve in Tirana, Lawrence Duhon serves in Fier, and Suzanne Lacy serves in Elbasan.

8

For Student Day at the Baptist Building; sponsored by the Church Administration & Pastoral Ministry. Pray for our Baptist Student Unions and BSU directors in the different colleges and universities of Mississippi.

15

(1) For Church Related Vocations Banquet: Blue Mountain College; sponsored by Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries. (2) Pray that more young people will yield to God's call into full-time Christian service.

2

For Mississippi Baptist Conference of the Deaf; Camp Garaywa; sponsored by Missions Extension and Associational Administration. Pray for each church that has a ministry to the deaf.

9

Franklin Williams, Cubero, NM, is a Messenger of the Word pastoring the Laguna-Acoma Baptist Indian Mission. Pray that the congregation will be faithful and committed to the Lord. Pray that the Native Americans will be saved.

3

Pray for strength and wisdom for the 84 Baptist health promoters who are serving among the K'ekchi' people in Guatemala. A training session was held recently, and they expressed a desire to reach unreached villages with the gospel through this ministry.

10

Hillcrest Baptist Church

Jackson

October 11, 1998

6:00 p.m.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

NOVEMBER



1-93 MISS CAITLYN BRASWELL
Caixa Postal 61, 89.802-970 Chapeco, SC, BRAZIL
Parents: Larry & Alicia, General Evangelism

3-77 MR. WILLIAM DRUMMOND
WCC Box 1128, Hattiesburg, MS 39401
Parents: Samuel & Margaret, SERVE IN SPAIN

4-81 MISS LUCY GRAVES
Casilla 1417, Concepcion, CHILE
Parents: Eddie & Marilyn, General Evangelism

4-94 MISS ALICIA MARTIN
Casilla 2568, San Cruz, BOLIVIA
Parents: William & Cynthia, General Evangelism

5-85 MISS BETHANY FORTENBERRY
PO Box 228, Lobatse, BOTSWANA
Parents: Robert & Margaret, General Evangelism

8-91 MR. JACOB LIGHTSEY
VIP SAL #731, PO Box 52-5364, Miami, FL 33152-5364
Parents: Timothy & Rebecca, Literature Distributions/Promotion
SERVE IN EL SALVADOR

9-78 MISS JENNIFER GLAZE
MC, PO Box 4457, Clinton, MS 39058
Parents: David and Gloria, Media Promotion, SERVE IN ARGENTINA

11-97 MR. JONATHAN HARBIN
Rua Carlos von Koseritz, 1211, Apt. 502, Higienopolis
90540-031 Porto Alegre, RS, BRAZIL
Parents: Christopher & Keren, Theological Education

13-84 MR. PAUL HARRISON
Apartado 373, San Pedro Sula, HONDURAS
Parents: Frank, & Phoebe, Youth Evangelism

14-83 MISS EVA CARLISLE
7005 Fernwood Street, Apt. 431, Richmond, VA 23228
Parents: Jason & Susan, General Evangelism, SERVE IN URUGUAY

16-86 MR. NATHANIEL CARLISLE
7005 Fernwood Street, Apt. 431, Richmond, VA 23228
Parents: Jason & Susan, General Evangelism, SERVE IN URUGUAY

21-79 MR. WESLEY JOHNSON
1-15-1 Momochi, Sawara-ku, Fukuoka-shi 814, JAPAN
Parents: Dave & Robin, University Education

21-86 MR. GREG RUMSEY
4527 A Seminary Place, New Orleans, LA 70126
Parents: David & Pamela, Field Personnel Assistance

27-85 MISS STACIA COREY
7336 Anela Place, Diamondhead, MS 39520

HOUSE TOPS

HOMEcomings

Enon (Grenada): Oct. 4; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Bruce Jones, former pastor, speaker.

Strengthford First, Laurel: Oct. 18; Sunday School, 10 a.m., followed by the morning message by Julian West (former pastor) of Wrens, Ga.; dinner in fellowship hall; afternoon singing with The Deciple Quartet.

ATTENTION SENIORS & RETIREES

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- Can Medicaid help me?
- What options are available for me and my family?

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1-800-798-9323

or write us at: PO Box 55454, Jackson, MS 39296
ALSO ASK ABOUT OUR MONEY SAVING PREMIUMS FOR MEDICARE SUPPLEMENTS & FINAL EXPENSE PLANS

Two Mile, Morton: Oct. 4; 10:30 a.m.; lunch following the message and then singing featuring The Harvest Quartet; Joe Crane, Morton, guest speaker; Ray Ingram, pastor.

Spring Hill (Marshall): Oct. 11; 10 a.m.; noon meal in fellowship hall; singing in the afternoon; Lee Powell, Coolidge, Ga., guest speaker; Larry Dukes, pastor.

Siloam, West Point: Oct. 11; services, 11 a.m.; covered dish in fellowship hall at noon; Carey Sansing, Columbus, guest speaker; Ginger Fowler, West Point, guest singer; David Bishop, pastor.

Cherry Creek Church, Pontotoc Association, has called **Don Wilson** as pastor. A native of Corinth, Wilson received his education at Mississippi State

Calvary, Bruce: Oct. 11; 53rd year; services, 10:30 a.m.; singing and preaching in the afternoon.

Southern Hills, Jackson: Oct. 4; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; Ralph E. Buckley, pastor, speaker.

Providence, Hattiesburg: Oct. 4; 180th year; worship hour, 8 a.m.; Sunday School, 9 a.m.; and worship hour, 10 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Rick Cagle, associate/student pastor at Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, Ala., will lead the services; Cliff Lazenby, pastor.

Willow Grove, Collins: Oct. 4; Sunday School, 10 a.m., homecoming activities will begin at 10:30 a.m., and noon lunch followed by afternoon service; George King of Montgomery, Ala., former pas-

tor, guest speaker; revival services, Oct. 5-9; 7 p.m.; Danny Berry, evangelist for Mon.-Wed.; James Messer, evangelist for Thurs.-Fri.; Bob Thames, minister of music, in charge of music.

Mt. Zion, Brookhaven, to celebrate 175th anniversary

Mt. Zion Church, Brookhaven, will celebrate its 175th anniversary on Oct. 3 and 4. Saturday activities will include a catered meal at 6:30 p.m., service at 7:15 p.m., and time of sharing by former pastors and music directors at 7:30 p.m. Sunday will consist of Sunday School at 10 a.m., worship at 11 a.m., and noon meal in the Family Life Center. The Mississippi Baptist Historical Society will present a plaque to the church for its anniversary. The speaker will be Tim McCaffrey.

STAFF CHANGES

University, Blue Mountain College, and M i d - American Seminary in Memphis. He previously served at P a l m e r Church in Ripley.

First of Glendale, Hattiesburg, has

called **Chad Davis** as minister to students, effective Sept. 13. Davis is a senior student at William Carey College and has served on the staff at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly for the past two years.

Thirty-eighth Avenue Church, Hattiesburg, has called **Ginger Adams** as minister of education/senior adults. Adams received her education at the University of New York, Albany, N.Y., and at New Orleans

Seminary. She has previously served at S h i f a l o Church, Kiln, and First Church, Arabi, La.

First Church, Indianola, has called **Bobby Whittington** as minister of music. Whittington previously served First Church, Indianola, from 1981-1988 and then served FBC, Sardis and FBC, Glen Allen. He is a graduate of Blue Mountain College and Delta State University. He and his wife, Angie have two sons, Jason and Alan.

Alex Craft recently joined the staff of First Church of Eupora where he serves as minister of music/associate pastor. He previously served as minister of music/youth in Hammond, La.

REVIVAL DATES

Tylertown (Walthall): Oct. 4-7; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7

p.m.; Bill Webb, Meridian, evangelist; Lee Gordon, West Point, music; David L. Sellers, pastor.

First, Byram: Oct. 4-7; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Tommy Simmons, Vicksburg, evangelist; Charles Malone, music.

Dixie, Hattiesburg: Oct. 11-14; Sunday, 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Buford Easley, Kenner, La., evangelist; Daniel Lee, Magee, music; Bobby Holder, pastor.

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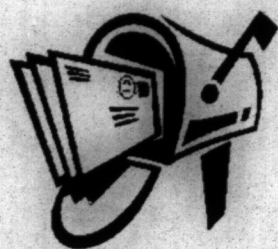
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Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

BE LIKE JERRY

Editor:

I'm writing this letter in regard to the recent death of a very devout Southern Baptist man, Jerry Clower.

Clower's strong faith in our Lord Jesus Christ meant a lot to him, as well as to many other people. He always said, "God don't make mistakes, and he ain't gonna make one with me!" That is really great, being able to feel that way.

A lot of people will remember him for his funny stories, but I will also remember his faith in our Lord.

Clower was always able to rest at ease, just because he knew Jesus as his personal Savior. That is just so wonderful. Many people know that Heaven is a better place now!

As we continue to mourn the loss of this fine man from the East Fork community in Amite County, let's try to trust in the Lord the same as Jerry Clower did.

Joey Tarver
McComb

THANKS FOR SS LESSONS

Editor:

I am a Presbyterian on the mailing list of The Baptist Record. I enjoy reading the paper every week. I enjoy the entire paper but especially enjoy the Sunday School lessons.

The authors change each quarter and through the years I have enjoyed every one. I have personally known some of the authors and this makes the lessons especially interesting.

The majority of the time "pastors" write the lessons and all of them are very professional and effective.

This past quarter I have especially enjoyed the writings of the elementary music teacher from Gulfport, Nancie E. Simmons. Some of the examples and illustrations she used from her own life made the lessons unique and special. The personal testimonies tend to

stay with me to share along life's way. Some will live and be shared with others for many years to come.

Thank you for asking "lay persons" to write the lessons.

After all, the vast majority of Sunday School teachers are lay persons who can relate so very much with other teachers.

Otey Sherman
Charleston

STUDY BIBLE IN SCHOOL

Editor:

Your children can pray in public schools, read their Bibles in public schools, and have a Bible class in public schools.

I would like to thank Kenneth Patterson of Leakesville for set-

ting the record straight concerning the matter of teaching the Bible in public schools. ("Bible not banned" letter, Sept. 17).

If Baptist preachers (I'm one) and shallow demagogic state and national politicians would tell the people the truth, much of the confusion would disappear.

One Baptist preacher told a congregation that in 1963 the Supreme Court "removed all religion from all public life."

That preacher was a military chaplain for several years after 1963.

I taught Bible in Pearl High School for ten years. The course was continued for three years after I retired and was discontinued by the school board and not the Supreme Court.

If you would like for your

children to have the privilege of studying Bible in high school, contact your school board and not the Supreme Court.

C. L. Boland
Pearl

EFFECTIVE WITNESS?

Editor:

My heart has been troubled over an article that appeared a few weeks ago in The Baptist Record. The article was about The Community Supermarket located in New Orleans.

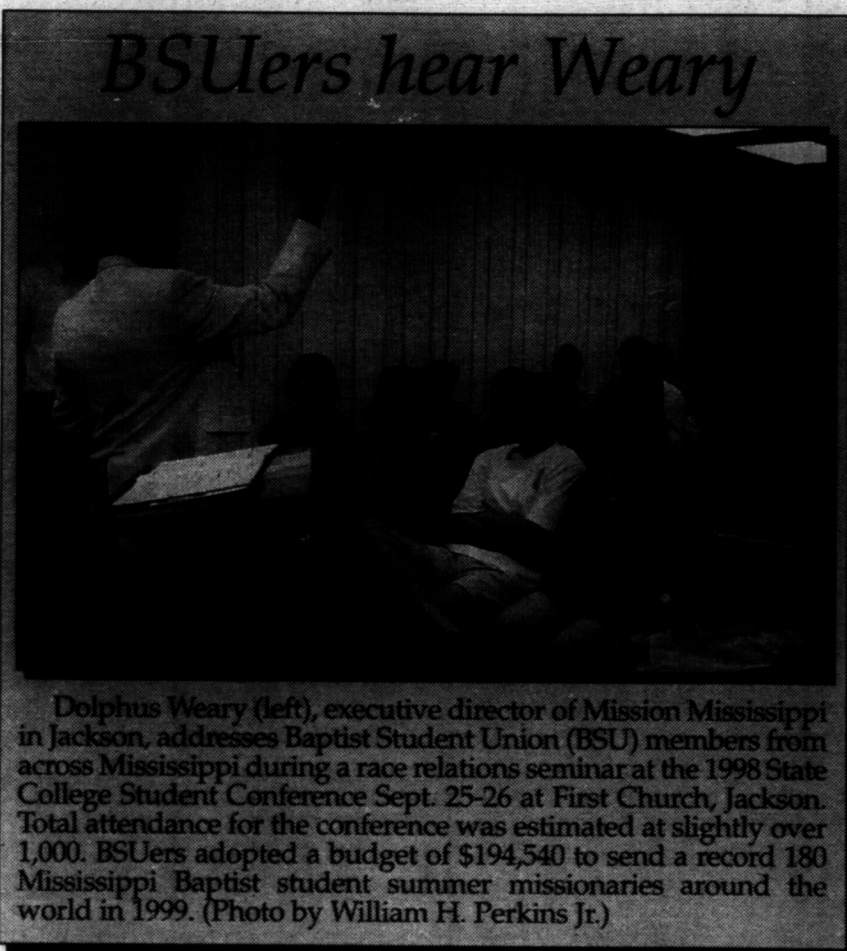
I am very familiar with the store and the community. This store is located next to New Orleans Seminary. I am a recent graduate of New Orleans Seminary and lived on campus for more than two years.

I shopped in this store before and after the Lamb's took over ownership. What troubles me is the praise given to the Lambs in The Baptist Record, when these fellow Baptists sell alcoholic beverages (beer, wine, and liquor) and lottery tickets.

Is this being an effective witness and ministry to the people in the Gentilly community and is it right to praise and condone such practices?

Jeff Myers, pastor
North Long Beach Church
Long Beach

Editor's note: The Aug. 13 page one article was provided by the public relations office at New Orleans Seminary.



Dolphus Weary (left), executive director of Mission Mississippi in Jackson, addresses Baptist Student Union (BSU) members from across Mississippi during a race relations seminar at the 1998 State College Student Conference Sept. 25-26 at First Church, Jackson. Total attendance for the conference was estimated at slightly over 1,000. BSUers adopted a budget of \$194,540 to send a record 180 Mississippi Baptist student summer missionaries around the world in 1999. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

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FERRIDAY — First Church: full-time minister of education and youth; send resumes to: First Baptist Church, Attn: Search Committee, PO Box 386, Ferriday, LA 71334.

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PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC AND PART-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH. Send resumes to Providence Baptist Church, 262 Zumbro Road, Cleveland, MS 38732.

DAY CARE DIRECTOR — The First Baptist Church of Gulfport is seeking qualified applicants

of the position of Director. A degree in Early Childhood Education and/or daycare experience is desired. Please forward resumes to: Board of Directors, FBC Daycare, PO Box 70, Gulfport, MS 39502.

ASSOC. PASTOR/YOUTH MINISTER: Send resumes to Personnel Committee, Liberty Baptist Church, PO Box 73, Liberty, MS 39645.

PART-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH/YOUTH DIRECTOR: Send resumes to Canaan Baptist Church, Youth Director Search Committee, 1008 Lehmsberg Rd., Columbus, MS 39702.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

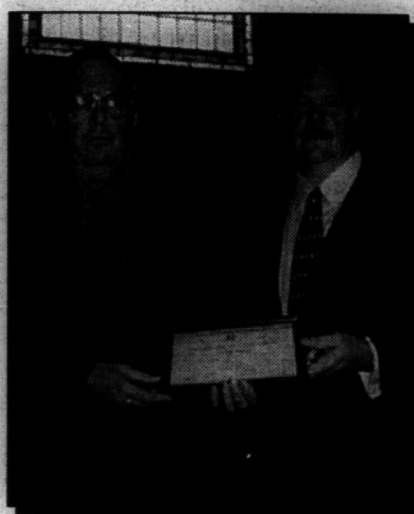


Steve Caldwell was ordained as deacon at First Church, Kosciusko, on Sept. 13. Pictured are Barry Corbett, pastor; Caldwell; and his wife Cheryl.



Star Church, Star, ordained four new deacons on Aug. 30. Pictured, (from left) are Vic Bowman, pastor; George Flowers, Joe Nash, Van Dyess, and Steven Parker, new deacons; and Tom Edmonson, chairman of deacons.

'Fantastic Family Week' a success



Calvary Church, West Point, held a deacon ordination service on Aug. 16 for Sammy Pearson. Pictured (from left) are Pearson and Martin Steelmon, pastor.

SARDIS, Miss. (Special) — Bringing families together was the main focus of a recent event at Sardis Lake Church, Sardis. The event, Fantastic Family Week, was designed to bring families together.

The main theme for the week was "Building Battlements For The Home," with points given each night to build a battlement of communication around the home. The week was capped off on Saturday with games, dunking booth, horseback riding, singing, food, and much more.

Each night included singing, scripture reading, skits, and adding blocks to the battlement. The devotion each night

was done at home as a family. Written devotions were given out each night to help the family understand the three points for that night.

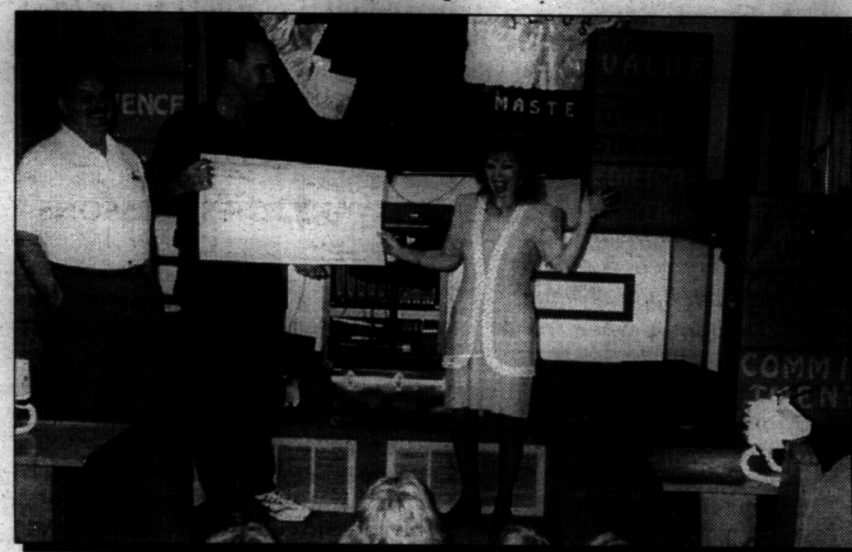
Families were also encouraged to sign commitment cards to stay away from all radio and television for the week. Over 50 pledge cards.

Each night started with receiving the offering in a unique way. A large set of balances was built with a bucket on either side. The boys competed against the girls to see who could bring the most change each night.

If the girls won, pastor Kevin Crofford had to go in the dunking booth on Saturday. If the boys won the pastor's wife Borsha would have to get wet.

The competition was close, but the girls kept Borsha dry.

The theme for Monday night was "Me and My Lord" which featured a conversation with God. Tuesday night's theme was "Me and My Family." What would be more fitting for Wednesday night than "Me and My Church?"



Fantastic Family Week activities at Sardis Lake Church, Sardis.

Thursday night brought a special guest to illustrate the theme of "Me and My Sacrifice." Keith Carpenter, a Christian artist from Fulton, performed a special black-light chalk drawing which showed Christ's ultimate sacrifice.

Friday night brought more laughs when the pastor introduced the World's Smallest Athlete, Shorty Pigsty. This skit tried to show how the same things that make ball teams successful also work in the home, church, and daily life.

On Saturday afternoon the MacGregor Family entertained the crowd with gospel singing. The night was capped off with Judy Vaughn and friends encouraging each person to "put on the armor" and get ready for battle.

After a full week of non-stop excitement, Crofford decided on a little "R&R," Reflection, and Rewards. This was a time when families could tell how the past week had blessed their homes.

Morrison Hgts. sets Holidays '98 for Nov. 6

The Women's Ministry of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, will present "Holidays '98" on Nov. 6, from 6:30-9 p.m.

The featured speaker will be Kay DeKalb Smith, singer-comedienne from Nashville.

Smith was once described as the "Carol Burnett of Christian Entertainment." Holiday '98 will include a pasta buffet, music, and laughter.

For information concerning tickets and child care, call Lisa Modisett at (601) 924-1139, or Morrison Heights Church at (601) 924-5620.



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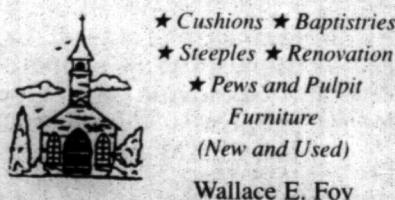
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EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Forsaking the familiar

Exodus 12:29-34, 37-42a

By Walter M. Blackman

While attending seminary, my family awoke to the frantic knocking of the campus security, telling us to leave our mobile home at once and go to a safer building nearby. Hurricane Juan was approaching with little warning. We grabbed our son, a few articles of clothing, our picture albums, and left. Our departure was sudden and necessary. The Israelites also experienced a forced, hasty departure from Egypt. There was no time for planning or impact studies, only time for prompt obedience.

A forced departure (12:29-43). Through Moses, God prepared the people, giving them

specific instructions for their deliverance.

Just as God said, the tenth and final plague fell on Pharaoh's house and all of Egypt. At midnight, the firstborn of each Egyptian house died, including the firstborn of the animals. Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and told them to leave immediately, taking everything they owned. Even the Egyptians asked them to leave, giving them much of their valuables. Pharaoh's question about the Lord (5:2) was now fully answered in his mind. The mighty Egyptian king was humbled by the King of kings.

Leaving Egypt may have been difficult for some of the



Blackman

Israelites. They were leaving the only home they knew. God's preparation included turning the Israelites' fear into obedient faith. Following God's directions may require stepping into the unknown by faith and forsaking the familiar.

Everyone Jesus called to follow him left the familiar and headed toward the unknown. Christians today must be willing to leave the familiar and go in faith wherever the Lord leads. God is always calling his people to new challenges and new work. We must always be prepared to accept whatever marching orders the Lord gives us. The loss of a job, the death of a loved one, or a mandatory move may be the means the Lord uses to lead his people on to new and greater work in his kingdom. Forced departures are made easier if we are always prepared for what-

ever the Lord permits to happen in our lives.

A hasty departure (12:37-42a). The Lord told the Israelites to prepare for a quick departure. Pharaoh urged the people to leave quickly and they did. Their haste was illustrated by the unleavened dough they carried with them as they left. The route of their departure was from Rameses to Succoth. While the exact placement of the exodus route is debated, the passage demonstrates the quick progress God's people made in departing Egypt. Sometimes, God's work demands haste. An opportunity to witness may quickly vanish because of death. Reconciliation between estranged family members may never take place if forgiveness is withheld or delayed. Every invitation during the worship service may be the last call from God for someone.

Despite the unusual circum-

stances, the Israelites obeyed God and left quickly to secure their deliverance. The night was to be observed each year by God's people to remember what God had done and the importance of obeying the Lord. It was not Moses, but God who brought them out from the land of Egypt. Whatever our circumstances, we are challenged to trust in the Lord's direction. God's ability to provide for our needs and respond to our prayers may depend upon our prompt response of faith to his will for our lives. God will never call us to forsake the familiar unless he intends to provide for our every need. There are many people God called into vocational ministry who are still in "Egypt" because they waited for better circumstances. God wants our obedience under any circumstances.

Blackman is pastor of First Church, Marion.

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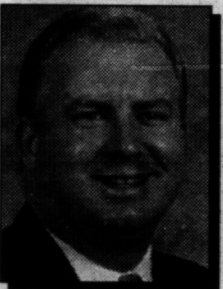
Judges 2:11-20a

By Greg Bowers

Imagine that you are a slave, working your fingers to the bone in the scorching Egyptian heat. Suddenly, the very God whom you believed had turned his back on you reaches down and liberates you from that horrible experience. For 40 years, God guides, feeds, and protects you while you await the fulfillment of his promise. Finally, the 40 years are over and you are ushered into a beautiful new home which exceeds your fondest dreams. How would you react? Don't imagine that you would be forever grateful to God and that you would live your life in faithful service to him? Sadly, such is

not the case with the Hebrew people. The book of Judges chronicles their downward spiral away from God.

Disobedience (2:11-13). The Hebrews commit evil acts and serve the multiple deities under the broad category of Baalism. "Baal" means "lord, owner, possessor or husband." He was all of that to the pagan people of Canaan. They worshipped him through some of the most debased immorality imaginable. God's people become enamored with Baalism and forsake him in favor of heathen idolatry. The word "forsake" means "to leave." It is the same idea which is expressed in Genesis 2, "a man



Bowers

shall leave his father and mother...." God's people reach Canaan and want to leave their previous relationship with him behind. Verse 13 indicates that they serve Ashtaroth, the female pagan deities. Initially, this worship would have involved burning incense and eating special meals.

Jeremiah 7:31 indicates that it ultimately led to child sacrifice.

Despair (2:14-15). By now, God's patience was wearing thin and his anger was kindled. In verse 14, the language of slave trading is used to describe how God hands over and sells his people into the hands of their enemies. This day had been predicted in Deuteronomy 28:25 and 31:17. Psalm 106 is a parallel passage to these verses. It details the people's various sins and the results which inevitably follow.

Deliverance (2:16, 18). I love

the word "nevertheless" in verse 16. In spite of our willful disobedience and flagrant rebellion, God loves us and desires a personal relationship with us. As an indication of God's interest in his people, he raises up judges who provide direction for the twelve struggling tribes. Some of the better known judges include Samson, Gideon, and Deborah. Verse 18 indicates that the people's groanings caused God to repent. Does this mean that God had sinned and needed to make it right? Of course not! The word "repent" here means that God had a change of heart. This is one of several occasions in the OT where God is depicted as having repented. The earnest cries of his people and their serious predicaments can cause him to have a change of heart.

Disobedience (2:17, 19-20). Verse 17 tells us that the people do not acknowledge the judges. They continue to commit spiritu-

al adultery by pursuing pagan idols. Adultery means rejecting one object of affection for another one. God should have been his people's object of greatest affection. If they had been obedient to the Ten Commandments (especially the first one, which demands absolute loyalty to God), this never would have happened. But it did and God's people continue in a downward spiral away from him. Verse 19 states that the people were corrupting themselves. The word "corrupted" means that they were not doing that for which they had been created. Man is created to respond to God. Corrupt people will not do that. They are living for another purpose. It is worth noting here that God repented, but his people will not. They continue their wickedly stubborn way, inciting God's anger against them once more.

Bowers is pastor of First Church, Indianola.

LIFE AND WORK

Staying focused on God's promises

Numbers 13:30; 14:6-9, 24; Joshua 14:7-14

By Michael Johnson

prom - ise (prom-is) n. 1. a declaration that one will give or do or not do a certain thing. 2. an indication of something that may be expected to come or occur.

Either one of the definitions given by the Oxford American Dictionary fits our general understanding of the word 'promise'. In fact, all of us make promises every day, probably without giving them a second thought. When we write a check, for example, we are basically promising that there is sufficient money in the bank to cover the draft. When we get behind the wheel of a car we are promising to adhere to the rules of the road and honor the license which

legally permits us to drive. When we

report to work we are implicitly promising to complete the work assigned for the previously agreed upon wages. And then there are those special occasions where we stand before others and promise to "have and hold from this day forth" or "swear to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth." Unfortunately, however, promises made between one another are sometimes not kept and we have collection agencies, courts which suspend driving licenses, termination interviews, divorces and threats of perjury proceedings.

Scripture is full of instances where God has made promises to his people. This week's lesson



Johnson

reminds us that even though people may fail in their promises, God is faithfully fulfilling his word. This week we will examine one of God's basic promises to his people.

Standing on God's promises (Num 13:30; 14:6-9). The promises that God had made to Abraham, Jacob, and Moses were about to be realized. The people that God choose to call his own were standing on the cusp of the promised land. All they needed to do in order to claim Canaan was to move forward.

Twelve scouts, one from each tribe, had been sent forth by Moses for a reconnaissance report. Ten spies reported that the land was indeed great, but the people were too powerful and the cities were so well protected their walls could not be breached. Caleb and Joshua, however, encouraged the people to move forward. Yes, it appeared that they were facing

overwhelming obstacles, but with God's assistance, Caleb and Joshua affirmed, the land could be taken. The people, however, hearing these accounts sided with the majority report. God was faithful but the people were not!

Holding on to God's promises (Num 14:24; Josh 14:7-1-10). "How long will these people despise me?" God asked Moses repeatedly. Because of their disobedience, God determines that this current generation will not be allowed to enter the promised land with the exception of Caleb, Joshua and their descendants. This episode now begins the infamous '40 years of wandering in the desert'. God will now raise up a new generation which will be given a new opportunity to claim the promise that God held for them.

Enjoying the fulfillment of God's promises (Joshua 14:11-14). Time passed, and true to his word God allowed Joshua to bring his people into the land of Canaan. One of the promises

made to the patriarchs and Moses had finally been fulfilled. The land was divided appropriately among the twelve tribes with Caleb reminding Joshua of the portion of land that God had specifically promised him 45 years earlier.

This week's lesson raises several questions for consideration as we think about how we relate to God's promises. What kind of promises are we expecting God to fulfill? Do we really believe that God can fulfill what he has promised? How do we live our lives which reflect our confidence in God's promises? What type of life experiences cause some people to lose sight of God's promises? Can believers who stay focused on God's promises make a difference in our world? How? Exploring answers to these and other questions this Sunday should make for an interesting Bible study hour.

Johnson is a professor in the Christian Studies and Philosophy Department at Mississippi College.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

AUGUST 1-31, 1998 MEMORIALS

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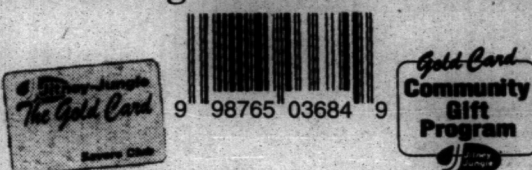
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India Nunnery staffers get into the 'swing' of things



Staff of the India Nunnery Campus at The Baptist Children's Village recently completed training on the Ropes Course to prepare them to facilitate groups of young people on the various elements. If first-hand experience is the best teacher, our young people are in the hands of some great facilitators.



Bibliocipher

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LZY LZSYN HKOYLZ XKL,
QCL NKP LK JLYWR, WXM
LK VSRR, WXM LK MYJLP-
KB: S WO HKOY LZWL
LZYB OSTZL ZWUY RSNY,
WXM LZWL LZYB OSTZL
ZWUY SL OKPY
WQCXMWXLRB.

DKZX LYX: LYX

Clue: H = C

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Second Peter Three Eight.

Gage: refocus on youth ministry needed

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — Last year, nearly half of the Southern Baptist churches reporting baptisms through the Annual Church Profile Report did not record a single baptism under the youth category, according to statistics released by the North American Mission Board (NAMB).

Of the approximately 38,000 churches reporting, 17,400 churches recorded no baptisms in the 12-to-17-year-old category and 23,500 churches reported baptizing one or less.

Despite the gloomy statistics, the founder of a popular Southern Baptist summer youth camp contends that the teenage culture today is not a hopeless cause.

"Teenagers today are no more difficult to reach for Christ than they were 30 years ago, 40 years ago, the bottom line is we're just not doing it," said Rick Gage, founder of the "Rick Gage 'Go Tell' Youth Camp," headquartered in Atlanta.

Speaking at the Culture Shock '98 youth ministry conference held Sept. 14-16 on the campus of Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., Gage said youth ministry has lost its focus in too many churches. He said prayer, Bible study, and evangelism are

the fundamentals of a God-honoring youth ministry.

"We've lost the victory that is involved in winning people to Jesus," he said. "I believe all of Heaven gets more excited when a young man or a young lady comes forward and gives their heart to Jesus, than to see 99 people get together Monday for a Bible study."

"The youth ministry ought to be in the lost people business," Gage continued. "If it doesn't center around reaching people for God, we don't need it."

Citing another NAMB statistic showing only nine of the Southern Baptist Convention's 40,887 churches recorded more than 100 youth baptisms last year, Gage said there is a pervasive misconception about teenagers and the church.

"Don't tell me you can't preach to kids," he said. "I don't buy it. They want to be preached to. You don't have to sugar coat it. You don't have to give them Kool-Aid and cookies. My friend, I'm telling you today's generation, they want it hot and they want it heavy. They want it black, they want it white. 'Give me your best shot,' that's what they want. Preach, preach, preach to your kids. Preach the gospel to them."

Gage said 25,000 teenagers have attended his summer youth camp over the last 10 years including 4,000 this summer from 20 states and 150 churches. "Kids are responding," he said. "They are getting saved. They're getting right with God and they're going back home and they're turning their schools upside down for Jesus."

Allen Jackson, assistant professor of youth education at New Orleans Seminary, said during the conference that teens today are impressed more about the aspect of having a personal relationship with Jesus than they are by the authority of Scripture.

"There is a person who loves them right at the center of the faith," Jackson said. "It's the only religion in the world where God takes the initiative. It's an authentic religion."

Jackson said time is of the essence when it comes to reaching "millennials" — those born since 1983. "If they don't respond to Christ by the time they are 20 years old, there's a one in 10 chance they never will," he said.

Jackson described the millennial generation as "schizophrenic" and suffering from insecurities brought on by the

"changing family," "media influence," "moral relativism," and "hopelessness."

"Extremes are greater, and stakes are higher," Jackson said comparing today's teens with youth of past generations. "In the 50's teens lost their innocence, in the 60's they lost their authority, in the 70's they lost their love, in the 80's they lost their hope with AIDS, and in the 90's they lost their safety."

Jackson said the church must reacquire itself with the teenage culture if it is going to make a difference for the cause of Christ. "We have access to the greatest story that's ever been told," he said. "We need to know (millennials) before it's told."

With about 73 million "millennials" currently in the United States, projections call for there to be more teenagers in the country than any other time in history by the year 2006, Jackson said.

"All of these stats and all of these figures, all of this stuff is fine, but unless Jesus is at the center of it, we become great sociologists and lousy evangelists," he said.

"Let's learn the culture so that we can take the message to a culture that hurts."

Jones BSU celebrates ground breaking



On Aug. 16, members and friends of the Baptist Student Union (BSU) at Jones Junior College (JJC) in Ellisville gathered for a ground breaking ceremony for the new BSU Center. "With all of the ministries that the BSU members are involved in and the school enrollment now exceeding 5,000, they have outgrown the present BSU facility," said Dave Abbott, chairman of the BSU building committee.

The new building will be 8,400 square feet and will include offices, chapel, assembly area, conference room/library, prayer rooms, game room, large kitchen, and work room. The project is estimated to cost \$400,000, with nearly \$160,000 already raised in the last couple of years.

"The building committee has asked the churches in the eight-county area supporting Jones (Junior College) to consider giving one-half of one percent of undesignated receipts for a minimum of three years. If we will do this, the new facility will be paid for within that time period. Many churches and associations have chosen to give a full one percent to the building fund," Abbot said.

When asked about the role of the BSU on the Jones campus, BSU director Larry Goff replied, "The Baptist Student Union is a Christian student organization whose purpose is to meet the needs of JJC students and help them know and grow in a relationship with Jesus Christ. We are an extension of the ministry of the Southern Baptist Churches in the eight-county area including Jones, Jasper, Smith, Covington, Clarke, Wayne, Greene, and Perry counties. Our activities, programs, and building are totally funded by these churches and their associations. We are a chartered organization on campus and therefore are a part of campus life."



Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

LifeAnswers

Our married pastor has a questionable relationship with a married woman. Church leaders have confronted him but his response is laughter. It's starting to affect our witness in the community.

It seems the proper steps have been taken up to this point, according to Matt. 18:15-20. You and your church should continue the wise counsel of that Scripture passage as next steps are considered. The pastor's lack of courtesy to the mood of the congregation reflects little concern for the church and a great deal of interest in himself. The Bible warns us to avoid all appearances of evil (1 Thes. 5:22). The pastor doesn't believe he is hurting anyone, but he has become a stumbling block to others (1 Cor. 8:9; 1 Cor. 10:31-33). Where there is compromise in the body of Christ, Satan gains a foothold. Pray that your pastor will have eyes to see and ears to hear where the Lord is leading him. Pray that God will empower you to serve as a role model for your own family so they will not be confused when they see the pastor acting this way. Don't forget that the Lord expects you

to be holy and blameless, regardless of anyone else's conduct. The pastor's sins will find him out, but be alert that your own feet do not stumble.

My husband's step-brother shot their father to death. How do we forgive him when he destroyed someone we loved?

Your grief, anger, and confusion are all rushing around you at the same time. You have lost one family member to death and another to the violence that led to that death. Study the beatitudes in Matt. 5, meditating on each one as a progression to the next beatitude. It's going to take time to come to grips with your loss. Give yourself time to grieve. As you search for answers, hunger after righteousness rather than revenge. Mercy will come, but not immediately. Cleanse yourself of all evil and remain pure in thought and action. You will become a peacemaker, for yourself and others who are hurting. These verses will help you become more like Christ as you struggle under the worst of circumstances to be a reflection of the Savior.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.